(b) if so, the action taken to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The building of the ESI hospitals at Tirupathi has already been taken over by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the hospital has since been inaugrated on 8.7.99. The construction work of the hospital building at Nizamabad has also been completed and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to arrange its commissioning.

Expenditure Ratio of ESI

2378. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation will agree to share the actual expenditure on medical care in the State in 7:1 ratio without any ceiling as suggested by Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether E.S.I. Corporation will delegate to the State Government powers for sanctions and purchase equipment/ apparatus/vehicles, etc. according to norms or replacement thereof as suggested by Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under Section 58 of the ESI Act, 1948, the responsibility for providing medical care to the insured persons vests in concerned State Government/UT Administrations and expenditure incurred in this regard is required to be shared between the ESIC and State Governments in ratio of 7:1. However, the Corporation is meeting full cost of construction of ESI hospitals and dispensaries. The Corporation is meeting full cost of medical care for the first three years in the newly implemented areas. The Corporation is also running four occupational diseases centres at its own cost. There is huge expenditure on accounts of cash payment in respect of sickness, maternity, disablement and death of insured persons and the same is being met exclusively by the ESI Corporation. The Corporation has already authorised the State Governments to purchase equipments costing below Rs. 25,000/- However, expenditure on equipments

costing over Rs. 25,000/- is sanctioned by the ESI Corporation by taking into account requirements of all State Governments and overall budgetary position of the ESIC. In order to improve resource position of the State Governments in administration of ESI medical care recently, the Corporation has enhanced the ceiling on expenditure on medical care from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 600/- per insured person per annum with effect from 1.4.99. This ceiling is considered necessary for ensuring proper distribution of fund among State/Union Territories and for keeping control on avoidable expenditure. As the ESI Scheme is of contributory nature with limited resources, it is not possible for the ESIC to share actual expenditure on medical care without any ceiling, as suggested by the Government of Maharashtra.

ESI Hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur

2379. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation has constructed ESI hospitals at Chinchawad, Bibwewadi and Kolhapur without intimation to Government of Maharashtra causing great financial burden on Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether ESI Corporation will bear the recurring expenditure on these 3 hospitals for three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) As per the existing policy, expenditure on the ESI hospitals/ dispensaries constructed in old implemented areas is required to be shared between the ESI Corporation and the concerned State Government in the approved ratio of 7:1.

P.F. of Workers

2380. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tea Gardens in Darjeeling, Dooars and Terai, who are not depositing the P.F. accumulations of workers for years;